

DISCOVER NEW HORIZONS

Newsletter of the Western Ohio Education Association-Retired

Volume 34 Issue 1

September/October 2023

Founded September 1989

WOEA-R was founded by members who felt that retirees would benefit from getting together to socialize, meet new people and remain aware of events happening in public education after retiring from the job, but not the profession!

-OFFICERS-

Doris Moore

Chair

dlmoore542@gmail.com

-vacant-

Vice Chair

Sandy Dobberstein

Treasurer

sldobberstein@gmail.com

Lori Moodie

Secretary

Lorimoodie64@gmail.com

Emmy Brudzynski

Jane Rahn

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emmy.brudzynski@wright.edu

jrahna@sbcglobal.net

Phil A. Long

Past Chair

palciv13@gmail.com

Future meetings and programs will be advertised in this newsletter. Time/Date may need to be adjusted due to unforeseen circumstances.

Check website for all changes.

woea-r.ohea.us

WELCOME BACK!

WOEA-R is starting its 34th year! We're excited about all of the events planned for this year.

BE CAREFUL OUT THERE!

Although vaccines have been issued for the many strains of COVID, the risks of COVID are still present - especially for seniors. Here are some questions you may want to consider:

Is COVID over, yes or no?

The simple answer is no. The virus continues to mutate into other variants, infecting people and in some cases, resulting in death.

Is COVID still a threat 2023?

In the wake of the World Health Organization's declaration on May 5 that it was ending the COVID global health emergency, experts acknowledged that the disease now poses much less of threat than it has over the past three years.

Why is COVID surging again?

It may be that it's just a culmination of a lot of activity where people are gathered together. The uptick in cases doesn't necessarily mean the U.S. is at the beginning of a fall surge.

While we are caring for ourselves, let's not forget our professional colleagues who've been impacted by the devastating fires on Maui.

Contact the Hawaii State Teachers Association to donate.



**Donate to teachers
affected by wildfires**

Help your colleagues who lost homes, classrooms

Donate to teachers affected by Maui wildfires.
Hawaii's State Teachers Association

WOEA-R Events

Great programs are happening! All events are on Wednesdays and begin at 11am.

Date: September 20, 2023

Location: Amber Rose Restaurant 1400 Valley St. Dayton, OH 45404. Order from the menu.

Program: **Interesting/Exciting Women in Woodland.** Presenter Misti Spillman, Manager of Preservation and Community Outreach Woodland Cemetery. Meet Lib Hedges, visionary for the physically handicapped, Anna Barney Gorman, Queen of the Gypsies, Marquerite Doane, famous actress, and others that were authors, innovators, and the youngest Miss America in History.

RSVP: September 15, 2023 to Debra Owen call: 937- 236-2063 or email: hhteach@hotmail.com

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Date: October 18, 2023

Location: Trotwood Library Community Room 855 E. Main St. Trotwood, OH 45426

Program: **Library for Africa:** a Dayton Organization making international impact helping countries connect through educational relationships. Presenter Veleta Jenkins, co-founder/CEO Library for Africa. Learn how discarding books started this mission to build a library in Liberia. *(As one of the services for this year, bring gently used or new books for pre-K through high school. WOE-R labels will be placed in donated books.)*

Lunch will be a choice of Subway: Ham and cheese with lettuce and tomato, Turkey and cheese with lettuce and tomato, or Vegetarian, plus chips and cookie. Cost: \$10. Bring your own drink of choice.

RSVP: October 13, 2023 to Jane Rahn with your choice of sandwich. **CALL: 937-554-5602**

Make check out to Jane Rahn with your choice of sandwich. Mail to Jane Rahn P. O. Box 2937 Dayton, OH 45401

SAVE these DATES for FUTURE EVENTS

Date: Nov. 15, 2023

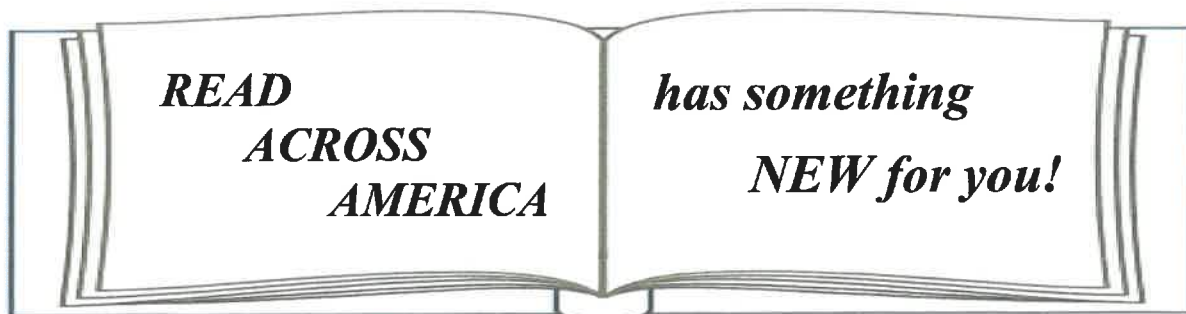
Location: Shen's Szechuan & Suchi

Program: Urban Educator and author Michael Unger. Book: **TEACH Lessons I Learned from My Students and Colleagues**, Published 2022. Available on Amazon and braugherbooks.com

Date: Dec. 13, 2023 *(note this date is the 2nd Wednesday due to holidays)*

Location: Huber Heights Library Community Room

Program: Yamika Leeper-Stephens with **Movements** to keep you going through the winter season. Favorite foods and memories will be shared along with donating a gift of a gift card or school supplies to the Artemis Service project for battered women, men, and children.



As a member of OEA-R/NEA-R you will get an email with NEA's digital calendar of activities and book suggestions for 2023-24. Go to [<NEA.org>](http://NEA.org) and check out Read Across America

September book: **The Coquies Still Sing** by K Nicole Gonzalez

October book: **A Land of Books of Young Mexiheah Word Painters** by D. Tonatiuh



A few thoughts from WOE-R Chair Doris Moore

Welcome!

As we approach the 2023-24 WOE-R year of events, I look forward to all of us having a great and successful journey. The WOE-R Executive Committee has been working together to bring improvements to the organization. We look forward to everyone becoming involved.

I am grateful to have voted NO on Issue 1. I had great pleasure getting out and encouraging others to exercise their right to vote. This result is only the beginning. Let's stay informed on all issues that affect our children and public education.

This has been a trying time for the entire Executive Board which has dealt with illness and loss. I personally have had several tragic events. Phil Long lost his brother, Joni Watson lost her mother-in-law, Sandra Dobberstein's mother had an accident, Jane Rahn lost a cousin and Lori Moodie lost her mother. Elizabeth Adegbile, Tina Irving and I attended the funeral of Lori's mother, Virginia Wade. Thus, WOE-R was represented. As we come together the third Wednesday in Sept. - Nov. and the 2nd Wed. in Dec., remember we may not always know what one is going through, but we are a TEAM and we care!

Thank you for your generous time and commitment to WOE-R. Please consider volunteering for activities. I hope you will invite other retired educators to our September luncheon/event.

Yours in Education,
Doris Moore, WOE-R Chair

Chairpersons for WOE-R Standing Committees

Community Outreach Chairperson - *Doris Moore*

Legislative Chairperson - *Dawn Wojick*

Mailing Chairperson – *Willie Terrell*

Membership chairpersons – *Emmy Brudzynski* and *Jane Rahn*

Newsletter Chairperson – *Wayne Wlodarski*

Nomination/Election Chairperson and Committee – *vacant*. (Need three volunteers to have candidates for officers available for the December meeting. Candidates/positions printed in March/April newsletter.)

Public Relations Chairperson – *vacant*. (Primarily communicating with the media)

Sunshine Chairperson – *Debra Owen*

Webmaster – *Debra Owen*

***As you can see, WOE-R has many opportunities for those who would like to volunteer!
It's doesn't take a lot of time and you'll be working with very supportive colleagues.
Think about what you have to offer. Contact Doris Moore if you have an interest.***

For the Good of the Group

NEA-R Annual Representative Assembly

June 29-30, 2023 in Orlando, Florida

-Delegate Report-

Introduction

It was an honor and a privilege to represent WOE R and the OEA R Team at the National Education Association. Your elected delegates were **President Mary Binegar, Jeff Corbin, Kathleen Purdy, Willie A. Terrell Jr., Deloris Rome and Gretchen Hudson**. The OEA R Team's number one goal was to get Kathleen Purdy re elected to the NEA Resolution Committee. Team Kathleen was successful. She received the second most points!

Submitted by Willie A. Terrell, Jr.

Our Leaders & Governance

NEA-Retired is governed by a nine-member Executive Council, elected by NEA-Retired members. NEA-Retired members serve on various committees within NEA and meet annually in June to conduct business of the organization.

2023 Election Results

Your newly elected leaders for NEA-Retired are:

- **President**, - 3 year term: Anita Gibson, AL
- **Retired Executive Council** -3 year terms: JoAnn Smith Mashburn, TN; Tom Wellman, NV
- **Retired Members for the NEA Board of Directors**, - 3 year terms: Judy Rohde, MN; Julie Rivera Horwin, AZ
- **Retired Board of Directors Alternates** -3 year terms: John Heineman, NE; Doris Marie Glover, GA
- **NEA Resolutions Committee** - 1 year terms: George Sheridan, CA; Kathleen Purdy, OH; Sandra Hatley, NC; Bobby J. Pierson, AL; Karen Solheim, GA; Ira LaVerne Reed, NC

A sincere "thank you" to all of the Retired members who ran for office this year.

NEA-R Supports Pro-Public Education Candidates

NEA-Retired is already making a difference in elections. Over the last five years, members have contributed well over \$1 million to our political action committee. At the 2023 annual meeting alone they contributed—both through live and virtual auctions—more than \$42,000. You *can* make a difference! Become involved in your local school board, city official, state and national elections by staying informed.

OEA-Retired Advisory Council Report

It has been a busy summer for the OEA-Retired Advisory Council with committee meetings and an AC retreat in August. A photo loop of 2022-23, and updates from OEA Governmental Relations and STRS were included. Did you know that STRS Retirement Board meetings are open to the public and members? Consider attending in person or via Zoom! Check website for dates (*usually 3rd Thur. and Fri. of the month*):

www.strsoh.org

There are a few openings for WOE R members to attend Leadership Council (*former UniServ*) meetings. If interested, please contact me. If you are on Facebook, check us out. Stay healthy and get involved!

Joni Watson, OEA-R Advisory Council member representing WOE R: Jonirwatson1200@gmail.com

2023 OEA-R Fall Conference

<https://ohea.org/oea-retired-fall-conference>

Dates are Oct. 11, 18, and 25 at 5-6 pm.

The 2023 Fall Conference is sponsoring three virtual webinars in October 2023. It will feature five OEA active and retired members sharing their stories of courage and determination. Register by using the website above or by responding to the link via an email from OEA-R.

Your Help is Needed!

WOEA-Retired Dates and Opportunities

**WOEA-R is asking members to volunteer to be on the ballot for position of
WOEA-R representative and alternate to the Fall forum and Spring R.A.**

Contact Doris Moore as soon as you read this and let her know you are willing to serve.

Phone number: 662-617-4933

Email: dlmoore542@gmail.com

Voting will take place at the Sept. 20th meeting.

Our deadline to submit names to WOE-R is mandated by OEA.

WOEA Fall Forum Nov. 14, 2023

Wayne High School

Registration at event is 4:00 Meal availability is 4:30

WOEA Spring R. A. April 17, 2024

Location TBA

Important Dates and Deadlines for OEA-Retired and NEA-Retired Events

September 20, 2023	DEADLINE to register to be on ballot for OEA-Retired representative to R. A's	
December 1, 2023	OEA-Retired Delegate Assembly	Columbus
December 2, 2023	OEA Representative Assembly	Columbus
February 15, 2024	DEADLINE to register to be on ballot for NEA Representative Assembly	
	DEADLINE to file to run for an OEA officer position	
March 1-3, 2024	NEA Leadership Summit	Chicago
March 3-5, 2024	NEA-Retired Conference	Chicago
April ?, 2024	Spring OEA-R Conference (hostesses/hosts: WOE-R and SWOEA-R)	
May 9, 2024	OEA-Retired Delegate Assembly	Columbus
May 10-11, 2024	OEA Representative Assembly	Columbus
June 29-30, 2024	NEA-R Annual Business Meeting	Philadelphia
July 3-7, 2024	NEA Representative Assembly	Philadelphia

IN REMEMBRANCE

We recognize those WOE-R members who have passed.

Judy Marie Kiray 8/30/2014

Robert O. Bowman 4/20/2018

David Cameron 11/8/2021

Margie Dilworth 12/18/2017

Daisy S. Johnson 9/14/2020

Susan Phillips 7/16/2023



We almost forgot to remind you....

WOEA-R, because you only retired from your job, but not your profession!

WOEA-R was founded by a Dayton teacher, Nancy Brown, upon her retirement. She felt that an organization should enable educators from various school districts to get to know each other and continue to be aware of events in public education. By attending WOE-Retired events one can continue to grow mentally, socially and professionally. At our events you will meet new colleagues from area schools, visit new venues, enjoy lunch, and take away at least one new piece of information to enlighten your life. Come, bring a friend and enjoy retirement with your professional colleagues, and continue to make a difference!

ANNUAL Membership is \$10 for the year 2023-2024

LIFE Membership is \$100.

If you join as a LIFE MEMBER, the special cost to you is only \$90 when you mail in your check made out to WOE-Retired by **September 20, 2023**. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Questions? **CONTACT** Emmy Brudzynski at emmy.brudzynski@wright.edu 937-312-5829
or Jane Rahn at jrahna@sbcglobal.net 937-554-5602

Legislative Committee Report

For the most up-to-date information about public education and political action, please visit the **Ohio and National Education Associations** website using the links below. Please bring your concerns and questions to the next WOE-R meeting where we can discuss issues you find vital.

ohea.org

nea.org

Let's work together to improve public education!

Dawn Wojcik
WOEA-R Legislative Chair

Do you know a WOE-R member who needs a little sunshine?

Contact Debbie Owens hhteach@hotmail.com

Did you know that WOE-R is online?

Information on our history, scholarships, community service, past newsletters and meeting minutes can be found at **WOEA-R.ohea.us**.